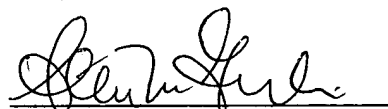


REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are presented for examination. The foregoing specification amendments are believed to be self-explanatory, and the claim amendments eliminate the multiple dependent format so as to avoid the concomitant surcharge therefor. Entry and consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested, and an examination in due course is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees due to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 23, 2005